

Minutes from the WeCAN Meeting held at Westfield City Hall Assembly Room on  
July 31, 2012 at 7 pm.

Disclaimer: I hope you will find these notes helpful. They are not a complete representation of the meeting, but rather the highlights of topics discussed. Feel free to contact Carrie or Derek at Westfield City Hall: [communications@westfield.in.gov](mailto:communications@westfield.in.gov) or (317) 804-3001 if you have any questions.

**July 31, 2012**

**Agenda**

- I. Q & A with Mayor Cook
- II. Joel Rush, Police Chief – Public Safety Announcements
- III. Kurt Wanninger, Public Works Director – Mandatory Water Restriction
- IV. Conclude



**I. Q & A with Mayor Cook**

Mayor started his time by giving several updates on items happening around the city: Mufflers and More has moved to Noblesville. An environmental study has been done to help make a decision on the future plans for the downtown site. The City has had 3 or 4 business inquiries for the building.

Union Street Flats at Grand Junction, a new apartment complex in downtown Westfield, has begun demolition and a groundbreaking ceremony is scheduled for Friday, August 3<sup>rd</sup>. The apartment complex brings a \$20 million investment into the downtown along with 200 – 300 more people.

Downtown Westfield Association reported that they have 11 new businesses locating/relocating to downtown.

Grand Park is moving along. Phase 1 is nearly complete. It includes grading, installation of the utilities, and digging the ponds. The project is on schedule and on budget. The sports campus will be fully operational in 2014. Mayor reminded the room that the reason for Grand Park was to promote economic development and diversify the commercial tax base. Commitments from businesses wanting to build in Grand Park are exceeding expectations. Mainstreet healthcare facility is in the middle of construction. Mainstreet is a \$17 million tax paying entity. Along with Mainstreet comes the extension of 186<sup>th</sup> from Tomlinson Road. Mayor reports that the City has received 150 unique inquiries on the Grand Park area. Future projects around Grand Park include: Villages of Grand Park – a 250 acre mix of residential and commercial, 5 hotels committed to building in Grand Park in the next 5 years and tournaments are already being booked for the 2014 season.

Mayor noted that so many homes are being built in Westfield that we had to contract inspectors from surrounding communities to help out our own inspectors who were in danger of falling behind with the increased workload.

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A question was asked whether an effort has been made on the City's behalf to help business misplaced by the US31 highway project at Greyhound Pass and 151<sup>st</sup>. Answer: Yes. The city is working with business that still need to find a new location. Mayor stated that most have been placed; however, there are a few that haven't found the right location yet. He says demographics play a large role in where a business decides to relocate.

Mayor explained the timetable for the US31 project in Westfield. Demo will begin in the Fall for US31 south of 191<sup>st</sup>. The 191<sup>st</sup> demo will happen in the next 6mo. INDOT will bid out the offline/connector road in September, with the freeway portion being bid out in October. US31 will be completed in 2014 through Westfield.

Question: The Grand Junction plan shows a tunnel under SR32, is INDOT widening SR32 near Union St? Answer: No. However, Mayor Cook stated that he met with INDOT commissioner at the corner of SR32 and Union Street to show him the need for revisions at the intersection. Commissioner suggested SR32 become Westfield's property. Commissioner did say that INDOT will install left turn lanes and left arrows at the intersection.

Question: How has Westfield been involved in the recent mass transit plans? Mayor stated that coordinated highways and bus service is key for long term development. Also says that train service from Hamilton County to downtown should be examined. Mayor recently traveled with a group of Indiana Mayors to look at Charlotte, North Carolina's transit system as they are much like Indy. Mayor hopes that Westfield will be a northern terminal for express bus service.

Mayor recently hosted a business roundtable with Westfield business owners and leaders. They said that their biggest problem was finding qualified workers. A transit system would help bring those workers from around the community.

Question: Has the legislature looked to HOA groups to build momentum for a mass transit system? Answer: No.

Mayor expressed his gratitude for cooperation on fireworks and open burn bans.

Developments that are planned in Westfield: Harmony at 146<sup>th</sup> St. and Ditch Road was presented to the APC last Monday, an unnamed development at 146<sup>th</sup> St. and Towne Road, hint of development at 161<sup>st</sup> St. and Spring Mill Road.

Comment from crowd: Thanks for improving Oak Road. The resurfacing made a drastic improvement

Question: Interest in videotaping and watching APC Meetings. Mayor forwarded the question on to Cindy Spoljaric who spoke with the resident.

Mayor clarified the water restriction. He said we are not short of water; rather the demand is putting stress on the infrastructure. Thanked the residents for curtailing their water use.

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Mayor spoke briefly on the proposal for the sale of our water and wastewater. He stated the City is entertaining proposals from three firms. The sale would allow the City to pay off debt and avoid new debt. It would also provide for improvements to be made around the City – trails, park and roadway improvements.

Mayor stated that the City is not selling the utility in order to pay for Grand Park. He also said that Westfield is not in financial trouble as false reports might have stated.

Mayor continued saying that half of Indiana's population is served by a private water company.

Comment from crowd: City did a bad job getting the message out about the water restrictions. There was confusion on the part of residents how the City can water their roundabouts, but homeowner's couldn't water their grass. Kurt Wanninger, Public Works Director, explained that the philosophy behind watering City property was that the residents had already paid for the maintenance in their taxes, so the City was trying to maintain the citizen's investment. He reminded the group that watering is allowed as long as you follow the odd/even address watering days. Mayor asked that any negative calls an HOA representative receive be forwarded on to him.

## **II. Joel Rush, Police Chief – Public Safety Announcements**

Joel reminded the group of important public safety announcements. Community Day is to be held August 7<sup>th</sup> at 5pm, at Americana Bank. He invited all residents and pointed out that it is a free event

On August 18<sup>th</sup>, there will be an ID theft protection seminar at the Westfield Washington Library – sponsored by the Police Department and the Library.

Joel warned the group that there have been thefts from unlocked cars in neighborhoods. Urged residents to lock cars and remove valuables.

## **III. Kurt Wanninger, Director of Public Works – Water Restriction**

Kurt spoke to the group about the current water restriction in Westfield. He stated that the ordinance is available on the website for those interested in reading it. He says that usual water consumption gets as low as 2.6 - 2.8 million gallons used a day in the winter, but once May comes water usage spikes. Kurt said we've nearly doubled the water used in July/August this year than we went through all last summer. Kurt went on to explain the process of how water fills the water towers at night then empties during the day. Due to the drought conditions, the water towers were not able to refill adequately.

Question: How long will the restrictions be in place? Kurt says it depends on the long term weather outlook.

Question: Doesn't drawing from a well still impact our supply? Not necessarily, in the case of Bridgewater, their draw doesn't affect our aquifer.

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Kurt mentioned that new school zones signs would be going up before school started – raising the speed limit from 20 – 30mph during school times. He said they will set out bollards to help remind people they are entering a school zone.

#### **IV. Conclude**

Councilman John Dippel announced that the next WeCAN meeting, August 28<sup>th</sup>, would be dedicated to a presentation on the future of Westfield Utilities and the potential sale of the utility assets. He encouraged all WeCAN members to attend and to bring others.

The next WeCAN meeting is on **Tuesday, August 28, at 7pm** at the City Hall Assembly Room.

If you have any topic suggestions or issues that you have questions on, please don't hesitate to contact us at [communications@westfield.in.gov](mailto:communications@westfield.in.gov).

For updated announcements and information from the past meetings, please visit the WeCAN Website: <http://sites.google.com/site/wecaninformation/>